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FIND NEGROES THE BEST.

INSPECTION SHOWS EIGHTH REGIMENT,
I. N. G., EXCELS.

Colonel Tripp is Surprised at Efficiency of the Black Soldiers—Other Guardsmen to be Drilled by Regular Army Men.

The Seventh and Eighth regiments of the Illinois National Guard, as part of the Fourth brigade, are being put through their annual inspection in arms, accoutrements, attendance, dress and rifle practice by a United States army officer.

The inspector of the National Guard is Captain Matthew E. Saville, Twenty-seventh Infantry, U. S. A., of the staff of Brigadier General James B. Smith, commander of the Fourth brigade of the Illinois National Guard. He is being assisted in his work by Lieutenant Colonel S. O. Tripp, chief inspector of rifle practice of the Fourth brigade, and Lieutenant Harry E. Fox, aid-de-camp on the staff of General Smith, both of whom have come from Peoria as representatives of General Smith.

EIGHTH IS INSPECTED FIRST.

The inspection so far has been confined to the six resident companies of the Eighth regiment, under the command of Colonel John R. Marshall. This is the regiment of Negroes of Illinois. Companies A, B and C were reviewed Monday night and Tuesday night Companies D, E and F were marshaled for inspection in the armory at Thirty-seventh street and Michigan Avenue.

Attired in their gaudy uniforms, consisting of dress coats, trousers and cap, with crossed rifles and white gloves, they presented a soldierly appearance. The attendance was more than 90 per cent. of the total membership, and their arms and accoutrements were in a splendid condition.

According to one of the visiting inspectors the showing of the negro militiamen was in many respects superior to that made by regiments composed exclusively of whites.

PRAISES NEGRO MILITIAMEN.

"I notice in them," said Colonel Trip, "a greater degree of enthusiasm in their drill, which reflects itself particularly in their general neatness of appearance and their attendance. They take more pride in their organization. In personal appearance, in-

Women Of The Hour



MRS. JOSEPHINE B. BRUCE,

Whose Influence is Doing Much for the Uplift of Afro-American Women.

cluding both neatness of dress and correct military bearing, they are superior to their white fellow members of the National Guard. In rifle practice only were they lacking last year, and I expect to find them this year much improved in that line.

"A word of praise for their colonel would not be amiss. Colonel Marshall is an indefatigable worker and to him is due most of the credit for their superior showing. He is somewhat hampered by the fact that his present quarters are very inadequate. I trust that recognition of this need will be taken as early as possible and that the Eighth regiment will soon be housed in quarters benefiting its size and efficiency."

BAND ONLY ONE TO OBEY ORDERS.

The regimental band, consisting of

thirty-four pieces and twenty members of the fife and drum corps, was inspected Monday night.

The Eighth regiment is at present the only one in Chicago having a regimental band, its musicians being the only ones who responded to the order to march in the parade last fall during the celebration of the Chicago centennial.—*Chicago Chronicle*.

The Second Baptist Lyceum is never without an attraction at its meetings at 3:30 p. m. each Sunday. Last Sunday Mr. Ernest R. Gaither, of New Jersey, spoke to a representative audience, taking for his subject: "Opportunity." Lieut. R. E. S. Toomey, the president, makes a capital presiding officer.

PRAISE FOR OUR WOMEN.

THE JUDGE TELLS OF THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF WOMEN.

The Men Are "Inconsequents" and Have More Hobbies and More Organizations Than They can Control—An Amateur Press Association—A Word About Editor Fortune and Other Journalists.

I have been pinning my faith to the National Association of Colored Women. In one way and another I verily believe they are doing something more than talk. I have also a sneaking, irreverent notion that not being men is somewhat in their favor. They haven't as many "leadin'est" women as the men have "greatest-leaders-of-their-race," to contend with. Mrs. Yates, the president of the association, appears to be no more essential to the general welfare and growth of the organization than Mrs. Booker T. Washington; Mrs. Josephine Bruce cuts no larger figure, apparently, than does Mrs. Mary Church-Terrell; Mrs. Lucy Thurman is no bigger than the National Organizer, Mrs. L. A. Davis. In fact these women seem to have devised a very happy system of adjustment, in the matter of "who-shall-be-the-biggest-gun" in their national organization, by not having a "big gun." By this statement of the fact, as I see it, I do not mean that the ablest and brainiest women in the association have not their ambitions to rule it and to control its destinies. But there is an ever-present recognition of the fitness of things that comes as a refreshing relief from the contemplation of the small bore intrigue and the reprehensible aspiration and attitude of the inconsequents in the national organization of our men. *The women have but one national organization!* God alone knows how many the men have.

I use the term "inconsequents" with a heavy heart and a soul burdened with the weight of a deep and abiding sorrow. Of what quality of flesh am I made that I can set myself up in the highway of public opinion as a competent judge of men and men's affairs? And yet what is a fellow to do when he comes face to face with a

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